

Are We in End Times & What is Heaven Like?



Text: Matthew 24:33-36, 1 Cor. 15:51-58,
1 Thess. 4:13-17a

The Plain Truth

Today's _____ is more useful
than tomorrow's _____.

There is a _____.

There is a _____?...Kind of

There is a _____.

One Year Bible Reading

February 1: Exodus 13:17-15:18, Matthew 21:23-46, Psalm 26:1-12, Prov. 6:16-19
February 2: Exodus 15:19-17:7, Matthew 22:1-33, Psalm 27:1-6, Proverbs 6:20-26
February 3: Exodus 17:8-19:15, Matt. 22:34-23:12, Psalm 27:7-14, Prov. 6:27-35
February 4: Exodus 19:16-21:21, Matthew 23:13-39, Psalm 28:1-9, Proverbs 7:1-5
February 5: Exodus 21:22-23:13, Matthew 24:1-28, Psalm 29:1-11, Proverbs 7:6-23
February 6: Exodus 23:14-25:40, Matthew 24:29-51, Psalm 30:1-12, Prov. 7:24-27
February 7: Exodus 26:1-27:21, Matthew 25:1-30, Psalm 31:1-8, Proverbs 8:1-11

January 31 & February 1, 2015

Are We in the End Times & What is Heaven Like?

Life Group Lesson



Week of February 1

Plain Truth- Today's **service** is more important than tomorrow's **prediction**.

Many scholars and theologians have been debating the return of Christ from the moment Christ ascended into heaven. In fact, in Acts chapter one at the moment that Jesus ascends up to heaven God sends angels to the men that are still staring up at the sky wondering of his return. In verse 11 these angels say "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

From that moment until this very day people have wondered about Jesus' return and our final destination. Jesus tells us in his own words about the mystery of his return in Matthew 24:33-36

"In the same way, when you see all these things, you can know his return is very near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear. "However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. Matt. 24:33-36"

1. We often ask the question of WHEN is Jesus coming back but do we know the WHY, why is it that Jesus is coming back to us?

We see the answer in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. 1 Thess. 4:13-16a

2. We also know that Jesus is not coming back just for those who are saved, what will happen to those who don't know Christ at his second coming? Read the verses listed below and see the offices and functions of Jesus when he returns.

2 Corinthians 5:10

John 12:47-48

Acts 17:30-31

Romans 2:16

God is not in the business of surprising his children. We can be confident that everything we need to know and everything we should know can be found in scripture.

3. Has there ever been a question in the Bible that you had that after seeking out the Bible you were able to find the answer?

Here is what we do know from scripture about Jesus' coming:

- A. There will be a return- 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-16
- B. There will be a rapture (as defined in scripture)- 1 Thessalonians 4:17
- C. There will be a reunion- Then we will be with the Lord forever- 1 Thessalonians 4:17b

Let us be confident in the things that we know and press in further to know more. I love the scripture from Deuteronomy 29:29 which says:

"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."

4. In what ways does your every day life change knowing that Christ will return someday?